



# CSRATA Junior Team Tennis Rules



The CSRATA abides by the USTA (United States Tennis Association) National Junior Team Tennis, UTSA Southern, and USTA Georgia Rules and Regulations. We encourage captains and players to read and familiarize themselves with these regulations, the USTA’s Rules of Tennis and “The Code”. (The Code is the USTA’s official publication for all matches without officials.) Links to the rules and regulations can be found on <http://www.csratennis.com/> by clicking on “Rules and Regulations”. Players and/or teams outside of Richmond and Columbia County are allowed to participate, subject of approval by Junior Team Tennis Coordinator. All home matches shall take place at Richmond and Columbia County, or other CSRATA recognized tennis facilities.

## I. Teams and Players

### A. Membership

1. All team members must be members of the USTA and the membership must be valid through the end of the current season. □  
  
□
2. Any points won by a player whose USTA membership expires during a season are taken away from his or her team and awarded to the opposing team. □
3. Below is a breakdown of Membership and JTT fees. □

<b>Description - If you are New player or Returning player that needs to renew membership, the total cost will be:</b>	<b>All Divisions</b>
USTA Jr. Membership for 1 year	\$20.00 (10U free until 12/31/16)
Fall Season JTT Fees	\$26.00 (8U - \$15.00)
TennisLink Fee	\$3.00
Background check Fee	\$1.00
<b>Total Cost to Player</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Description - If you do not need to renew membership, the total cost will be:</b>	<b>All Divisions</b>
Fall Season JTT Fees	\$26.00 (8U - \$15.00)
TennisLink Fee	\$3.00
Background check Fee	\$1.00
<b>Total Cost to Player</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>

### B. Age Eligibility

1. The date for eligibility for the Fall or Spring JTT is August 31 of the championship year.
2. Play in the age group that relates to your age before that date. You may always play in a higher age group.

## C. Court Availability

1. Courts have been arranged and reserved for you per the JTT Match Schedule. Please refer to this schedule to determine your match location. □
2. It is advisable for the HOME captain to contact the match facility to confirm that courts have been reserved a few days prior to each match.
3. If a match has to be re-scheduled, please make every attempt to re-schedule at the original match facility. If the match changes location, notify the JTT coordinator (Carolyn Drake). These facilities are paid based upon the scheduled usage. □
4. Each JTT match will be given 2-3 courts to complete the matches at each facility depending upon availability.

### I. **Rosters: Spring Season (Championship Season)**

1. Each roster must be registered on TennisLink with a minimum of six players—three boys and three girls. To avoid forfeits, at least five boys and five girls are recommended. □
2. Only one boy and one girl can play two positions per match. However, you may only schedule a player in two positions when all other players of the same gender on the team have played an equal or greater number of completed matches. The intention of this rule is to clearly encourage a FAIR rotation of players. "Stacking" your players and trying to "manipulate" the system in order to gain extra points is definitely discouraged and not in keeping with the philosophy of JTT. □

D1. Fall Season will vary and be announced at the beginning of each Fall season year.

## E. Add-Ons

1. The JTT Coordinator must approve all add-ons after the Team Captains' Meeting. □
2. A player may not be added to a team if his or her rating is higher than the level the team is playing. □

## F. Ineligible Player

1. Any person not listed on a roster in accordance with these rules is ineligible to play.

## G. Player Participation (**Championship**)

1. □
2. Two matches must be played to advance to district championships, defaults not counted. □
3. It is suggested that you rotate players evenly throughout the season. Everyone on your team should have a chance to play singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.

## II. Captains

## A. Team Captain - we strongly encourage parents to be captains

1. Each team must have a team captain. □ A team cannot be registered for a season until a captain is chosen and has meant the criteria for registering the team.  
  
□
2. Team captains listed on the match schedule must be accessible to all teams in the division □ and to the JTT Coordinator. □
3. Team captains may be captain of one team only. □
4. Professionals may not be team captains, assistant team captains or scorekeepers for divisions □ 12's, 14's, and 18's. They should only provide instruction to the players. □
5. Divisions 8's and 10's will have Professionals assisting the captains and scorekeeping as these □ players and parents learn the game of tennis.
6. All USTA Southern Section Jr. Team Tennis Local League Coordinators, Captains and Co-Captains will be required to complete a background screening and online youth protection training program. This process is now in effect for all programs.  
  
a) Visit <http://www.usta.com/safeplay> and go to Jr. Team Tennis section. Please be sure to allow 10 business days for completion of required Steps 1 – 3, as described below:
  1. **Access the training video at** <http://training.safesport.org>. You will be prompted to create an account. If you cannot complete the course in one visit, you can pick up where you left off when you return using the account you created. □
  2. **Review the USTA Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Jr. Team Tennis** [Link provided from the first link you go into], following successful completion of the video. □
  3. **Complete Your Background Screen Application.** In the application, you will be required to certify and affirm that you have successfully completed (1) and (2) above. The USTA has retained the services of an independent third party, the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI), to conduct background screenings of all applicants. Please begin your background screen through NCSI here: [LINK TO BE PROVIDED ONCE YOU COMPLETE OTHER STEPS] □
- b) Once you have submitted your background screen information, results will be generated in approximately 10 business days. Please be sure to add [ncsisafe.com](mailto:ncsisafe.com) to your accepted email domain list. Watch for an email from [Compliance@ncsisafe.com](mailto:Compliance@ncsisafe.com) in the days following your application; this will contain an Applicant ID number which can be used to check the status of your application on NCSI's website.
- c) NCSI may contact you within the 10 business day waiting period to request more information. You can confirm the legitimacy of the request by checking your status on NCSI's website using the Applicant ID number; your status will note the same request for information. Please watch for communications from NCSI as these emails may end up in your "spam" folder.
- d) Following the above described waiting period, you will receive either a green or red light, based on the results of your application and the USTA's criteria. If you receive a green light, you will receive an email from the USTA notifying you that you've been cleared through Safe Play with instructions on what to do next. You also will be listed on the results page of USTA.com: [http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/background\\_screening\\_program\\_results](http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/background_screening_program_results). If you



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received a red light, you will be notified by NCSI of your status and you will not be eligible to participate in Jr. Team Tennis.

## B. Team Captains' Meeting Attendance

It is mandatory that a team captain or team representative attend the Team Captains' Meeting.

## CAPTAINS/COACHES DUTIES

### PRE-LEAGUE

- Contact possible players for your team. Minimum team requirement is 3 girls and 3 boys for the Championship season. This requirement is different for the Fall season and will be announced before the Fall season begins.
- Determine what age division and ability level your team needs to play. Review the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) self rating guidelines found on the next page of this handbook. **All individual players need to be rated using this standard and cannot play on a team lower than their ability.** Please go to [www.georgia.usta.com](http://www.georgia.usta.com), Junior Team Tennis, or click here for a direct link for more information on How to Determine a Players Level.
- **Ask about Southern and Georgia tournament play experience.** Please go to [www.georgia.usta.com](http://www.georgia.usta.com), Junior Team Tennis, or click here for a direct link to find information on tournament player criteria. You may need to have try-outs or challenges to determine what level your team should play.
- Check all birthdays to be sure all players are age eligible through August 31<sup>st</sup> for your age division.
- Be sure your players have current USTA memberships.
- If you have anyone who wanted to play, but does not have the skills to make the team, recommend they contact the league coordinator or refer them to a local program to help them develop the skills to keep them interested in playing tennis.

### PRACTICE

- Establish days and location for practices
- Communicate fees and schedules to parents and children
- Establish rules for safety at practices. (No swinging racquets, etc.)
- Begin practice sessions
- Distribute simple rules of tennis to the kids
- Recruit other parents to help
- Teach your players how to play **no-ad scoring** and a **tiebreak**.
- Try different doubles teams

### PRE-SEASON

- Recruit parents to organize drinks/snacks and help with transportation or carpooling.
- Try to promote team spirit.

### MATCHES

- Encourage good sportsmanship and appreciation for teammates and coaches.
- Require your players to shake hands with each other after the match.
- Advise the parents that there will be no coaching.

- Build their confidence. Have your player's look and act like tennis players.
- Consider a "buddy" system on the day of matches-using a player that is not playing that day to watch and encourage their "buddy". Be sure you teach the etiquette of tennis to spectators and players.
- Captains may assist players on the **beginner teams only**. If the players are having a problem with scoring or tiebreakers, both captains from the teams can assist. Please do not sit on the court. Please do not give strategy advice to the players. Only help with a specific problem the players are having.
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## TENNISLINK

### PLAYER REGISTRATION

If you **HAVE** a team number, you will need:

- Credit card information (name on card, expiration date, billing zip code)
- Team number
- USTA Number of player

Step 1: Go to [mwww.georgia.usta.co](http://mwww.georgia.usta.co). (**or your league website link**), scroll down to **TennisLink, then click on Junior TeamTennis**

Step 2: Click on **Have a Team ID?** found at the top of the home page.

Step 3: Enter Team number ID then on next page enter USTA number of player

Step 4: Click **Proceed to check out**

Step 5: Verify registration is for correct team

Step 6: Enter payment information; select **Submit**. Print a receipt for a record of your payment.

(for open registration programs only)

If you **DO NOT HAVE** a team number, you will need:

- Credit card information (name on card, expiration date, billing zip code)
- USTA member number

Step 1: Go to [www.georgia.usta.com](http://www.georgia.usta.com) (**or league website for link**), on left menu, click on ***TennisLink, then Junior Team Tennis***

Step 2: Click on **Find a Program** found at the top of the home page.

Step 3: Enter zip code

Step 4: Choose our league program, enter USTA number and division

Step 5: Click on **Proceed to Checkout**, enter payment information, select Submit. Print a receipt for a record of your payment.

## **FORMAT OF PLAY: SPRING SEASON – 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U ( prior to the start of Fall season, the format will be announced)**

### **TEAM**

- Teams are co-ed.
- Each team must have a minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls.
  - The number of players needed for a match is 4 boys and 4 girls. However, if you only have 3, you can play one girl and/or one boy twice at the mixed doubles position.
- No more than 12 players per team is recommended.

### **TEAM MATCH**

- Each team match consists of five (5) individual matches played in order of Boy's Singles, Girl's Singles, Boy's Doubles, Girl's Doubles, then Mixed Doubles

### **AGE ELIGIBILITY**

- Players must be age eligible for their age division through August 31st

### **LEVELS/DIVISIONS**

These are the possible divisions of play. 10U will play on modified 60' courts with low compression orange balls and rackets no longer than 25". 12U Beginner and Intermediate levels will play with low compression green balls.

### **SCORING**

- 10U: 2 out of 3 first to 4 games no ad sets with a 3<sup>rd</sup> set played as first to 7 point game.
- All other divisions will play 2 out of 3 short sets first to 4 no ad games with a set tiebreaker played at 3 all (first to 7 points by 2) and a match tiebreak played instead of a third set (first to 10 points by 2).
  - Teams shall receive 1 point for each game and tiebreak won; maximum 40 points per match
- No-ad scoring. The first player to win 4 points wins the game. If the score reaches 40 all, the next point becomes the game point. At 40 all, or deuce, in singles, the receiver may choose to receive either in the ad or the deuce court. In doubles, the receiving team may choose to receive in either the ad or deuce court. In mixed doubles, the boy must receive serve from the boy and the girl must receive serve from the girl. In calling the score of a no-ad game use 15, 30, 40, and game. They may call the score of 40 all "deuce".

## **Format of play – 8U**

- Mixed gender teams of 4 players each
- Team match will consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles match
- Matches played on modified 36' court with red felt balls and rackets no longer than 23"
- Scoring: 2 out of 3 first to seven point games. Third game, if necessary, will be counted as one point

### **III. Dual Meets**

## A. Match Time

Dual meets for 10, 12's, 14's, and 18's will be on Sunday beginning promptly at 2 p.m. (8U begin at 1:30.) In some divisions, there may be two dual meets on Sunday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Warm-up begins 15 minutes prior to match time.

## B. Format

Intermediate and beginner: □ Dual meets for division 8's consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles. □ Dual meets for division 10's consist of 2 singles and 2 doubles. □ 12's, 14's, and 18's consist of one boys' singles, one girls' singles, one boys' doubles, one girls' doubles and one mixed doubles (in that order). (Championship)

## C. Setting up Matches

1. The home team captain contacts the visiting team captain at least four days prior to dual meetings to discuss directions, court reservations, etc. You are encouraged to work out any time or line-up conflicts. □
2. With the agreement of both captains, matches may be played earlier than the scheduled date. They may not, however, be played after the scheduled date. □
3. If a captain is unavailable for a match, a designated replacement who has completed the background check and who knows the rules and regulations must be named. □
4. All matches (including rescheduled matches) must be played at the facility named on the match schedule unless otherwise approved by the JTT Coordinator. □
5. The team captain calls the opposing team's captain as soon as he or she knows that any or all individual matches will be forfeited. This prevents inconveniencing the opposing team's players. □

## D. Line-Ups / Scorecards

1. Blank scorecards should be printed from TennisLink, line-ups completed on scorecard, and exchanged 10 minutes before the scheduled match time. □
2. Last-minute substitutions may be made only in the event of illness, injury or absence of a player. □
3. Substitutions may not be made after a point has been played in that position. □
4. Team captains record the results of each individual match on the scorecard, verify, and agree on match scores at the completion of the match.
5. The home team captain enters the match scores on TennisLink unless otherwise agreed on by both captains. The visiting team captain verifies the match scores on TennisLink.
6. **Match Scores must be entered and verified within 48 hours of the completion of the match.** After 48 hours, TennisLink automatically verifies match scores for unverified matches. The opposing team loses all rights to contest any score discrepancies. **If the score hasn't been entered by either captain within 48hrs, a double default may be entered.**

## E. Rules of Play

1. USTA rules and regulations govern play. □
2. "The Code," a handbook of ethics and fair play, should be understood and followed by every captain and player. □

3. A copy of USTA rules and regulations, CSRATA rules and “The Code” should be available at all dual meets. All of the rules and regulations can be found on [www.ustageorgia.com](http://www.ustageorgia.com) under Jr. Team Tennis and Rules & Regulations. □
4. Captains are responsible for making sure a replacement has these documents. □

## F. Defaults

The 15-minute default rule is in effect for all scheduled matches. The default rule is in effect when a court becomes available for that match. Please be as lenient as possible — **within reason** — about defaults.

## G. Balls

1. The home team provides USTA-approved balls for each court.
2. Captains may want to bring an extra can of balls in case an additional court becomes available.

## H. Warm-up

Warm up is limited to five minutes including practice serves.

## I. Coaching

1. □
2. Captains, teammates, spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls or scoring. □
3. Cheering or excessive clapping is not permitted. Please refer to the Behavior Guidelines for Parents. □
4. Both team captains are responsible for controlling spectators’ conduct during match play. □
5. It is acceptable during the first three weeks of play to assist the 10 & 12 under division players since they may need help in scoring, rotation of serve, etc. □
6. Parents may not be on the same court as their child. It is acceptable for the captain to help with the tiebreak in all age groups. In the older age groups, you may explain the tiebreak one time and then must leave the court. □

## J. Courts

1. If the home team is unable to provide courts for any scheduled dual meet, the visiting team has first option of providing courts. (The host team is considered the home team.) □
2. If the visiting team does not elect to provide courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team, which must provide courts within the approved JTT area at the scheduled time. □

## K. Alcoholic Beverages

Spectators at junior matches should not consume alcoholic beverages.

## L. Refreshments

Most tennis facilities provide cups, ice, and water. Please make sure the players have water before they walk onto the court.

## M. Awards

**Fall season is a non-advancing season.** At the conclusion of a Spring season, the team with the most games won is declared the division winner. JTT division winners for divisions 10's, 12's, 14's, and 18's are eligible to participate in the Georgia Junior State Championships provided the player has played in a minimum of two team matches, neither being a default match.

## N. Play-offs

Play-offs may be held at the end of each season with the top teams in each division competing against each other. (This requires two or more divisions in the same skill level.) The number of teams that go to the play-offs depends on the number of teams in that division. The JTT Coordinator assists with scheduling play-off matches.

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## D. Tiebreaks

**Fall intermediate and beginner : no tiebreaks will be played □**

- If a set reaches 3-3 for 10U, players play one more game to determine the winner. □
- If a set reaches 3-3 for 12,14 or 18 & under, players must play a tiebreak. The order of serving is the same as it was at the start of the match. □
- In doubles, the first server serves one point from the right side. The second server serves two points starting from the left side and ending on the right side. The third server serves two points starting on the left and ending on the right side. The fourth server serves one point from the left side and then players change ends of the courts. The fourth server serves one point from the right side. Play continues in such a manner until one team wins at least seven points with a two-point margin. Teams change ends of the court every six points. □
- In singles, the first server serves one point from the right side. The second server serves two points starting on the left side and ending on the right side. The players continue to alternate serving two points each until one wins a minimum of seven points with a two-point margin. Players change ends of the court every six points. □

## V. Penalties and Forfeitures

### A. Ineligible Players □

If an ineligible player participates in a dual meet, all points earned by that player are forfeited. □

### B. Penalties □

The Local JTT Coordinator has the authority to impose penalties and violations in situations where no penalty is provided by these rules. □

### C. Excessive Defaults □

Dropping points often has an impact on division standings and you are strongly encouraged not to forfeit entire matches. Consider playing a practice match if your team has to forfeit a position, and use a player who has already played. (These points do not count.) □

1. Excessive defaults are defined as defaulting all points of a dual meet or averaging more than one default per dual meet. □
2. If a team has excessive defaults, all its matches will be nullified and remaining matches will be treated as byes.

## **D. Suspension**

If a team has excessive defaults, the team may be suspended the following season. This penalty also applies to any team withdrawing after schedules have been completed.

## **E. Protests**

1. If the team captains cannot resolve conflicts, the JTT Coordinator should be contacted. □
2. Submit official protests in writing to the JTT Coordinator before the next match is played. The JTT Coordinator normally replies within 10 days. □

## **VI. Inclement Weather**

### **A. Rain**

1. In the event of rain, incomplete individual matches stand as played. □
2. The same players at the exact game and point resume incomplete matches as they stood □when play was halted. □
3. Line-ups for matches not started (including any position previously defaulted) may be □changed provided it does not conflict with the eligible player rules. □
4. Matches must be completed in accordance with the Rain-Out Rules. □

### **B. Rain-Out Rules**

1. In the event a match is cancelled due to rain, teams have seven days to make up the match. □
2. If a day cannot be agreed upon, the match must be played the following Friday (fifth day). □
3. If it rains on the fifth day, the match must be made up the next day there isn't any rain. □
4. Notify the JTT Coordinator of all rain-out matches. Give the Coordinator the date, time and place of the make-up match.
5. Rain out of the last scheduled match of a season should be made up on the next day without rain. □
6. In the case of a rain out, it may be necessary to set up individual matches on different days to accommodate schedules. □
7. If disagreement occurs, Friday is the day for the make-up match. □

### **C. Temperature**

Teams are not obligated to play a match if the temperature is below 32° F or above 95° F. If teams decide to play, it must be the decision of both captains. Rain-Out Rules apply to rescheduling the match. There are no provisions for extreme wind.

## **VII. Ability Level Guidelines**

Use the guidelines below to determine at which level a player should play. When in doubt, the player should play in the higher level, because the player will probably be at that level within one or two matches of the season.

## **Beginner**

If an individual has never played a JTT match before or recently started playing tennis, the player is a beginner. This type of player may play in a beginner JTT for two seasons. (If a player has played in local sanctioned tournaments, the player is not a beginner.) If a player has played in local unsanctioned satellite tournaments and not won any matches, he or she can still be considered a beginner. All 10 & under players can be considered a beginner unless the above criteria are clearly exceeded.

## **Intermediate**

If a player has: played in local satellite tournaments and won a match or matches in the tournaments; been a JTT player for two seasons; and can sustain a three-ball rally regularly, the player is classified as an intermediate.

## **Advanced**

An advanced player is one who: has played local tournaments and routinely wins one or more matches in his or her age group; can place the ball to different parts of the court; and understands how to win points in his or her respective age group.